

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

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USCINCEUR

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1709

E. O. 11652: GDS 79

TAGS: NATO FR ETRN ENRG P/ M

SUBJECT: NEGOTIATIONS WITH FRENCH AUTHORITIES CONCERNING
CENTRAL EUROPE PIPELINE TARIFFS AND TAXES

REF: USNATO 1627

BEGIN SUMMARY. MEETING FORECAST FOR APRIL 12 BETWEEN US AND
FRENCH REPS TO NEGOTIATE DIFFERENCES OF POSITION ON FRENCH CIVIL
TARIFFS AND TAXATION HAS BEEN POSTPONED TO 17-18 APRIL AT FRENCH
REQUEST. MEETING WILL BE HELD AT CEOA HEADQUARTERS IN VERSAILLES
IN PRESENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER. END SUMMARY.

1. GENERAL MANAGER HAS INFORMED US THAT HE AND MORRIS
(CEOA FINANCIAL ADVISOR) WILL PRESENT FINAL FIGURES FOR COSTS
AND REVENUES FROM FRENCH PORTION OF THE CENTRAL EUROPE
PIPELINE SYSTEM (CEPS). HE BELIEVES THAT THEY WILL SHOW A
GENERALLY DIMINISHING DEFICIT ON THIS PORTION OF THE OPERATION
TO A LEVEL OF SOME FF 3.5 MILLION FOR CY 1973 AND FUTURE. THUS, IN
GENERAL MANAGER' S OPINION, US ARGUMENT THAT LOW CIVIL TARIFFS AND
FRENCH TAXATION POLICIES CONTRIBUTE DIRECTLY TO THE DEFICIT
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MAY BE SOMEWHAT LESS COGENT, SINCE FRENCH CONTRIBUTION TO OVER- ALL
DEFICIT OFFSETS LOSS ON FRENCH PORTION. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE,

HOWEVER, THAT THE PAYMENT OF SOME FF4.3 MILLION IN TAXES TO THE FRENCH GOVT AND CONTINUED ACCEPTANCE OF LOW CIVIL TARIFFS DIONS.

4. KEAN SUGGESTED NORDIC PROPOSAL MIGHT BE AS ACCEPTABLE AS FRENCH PROPOSAL IF IT HAD SAME NUMBER RATIFICATIONS REQUIRED AS WOULD BE REQUIRED BY THE UK/ FRENCH PROPOSALS (PRESENTLY 86 RATIFICATIONS). GAITHER DID NOT COMMENT.

5. KEAN ASKED FOR U. S. VIEWS AS TO WHO SHOULD BE CHAIRMAN. GAITHER INDICATED WE HAD NOT YET GIVEN MATTER MUCH CONSIDERATION BUT NOTED PERSONALLY HE THOUGHT IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE HAVE ONE CHAIRMAN FOR BOTH DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE AND ASSEMBLY. KEAN SAID HE THOUGHT RIPHAGEN OF NETHERLANDS WOULD MAKE GOOD CHAIRMAN OF DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE AND SUGGESTED BINAGHI, ARGENTINE WHO IS PRESIDENT ICAO COUNCIL, MIGHT TAKE ASSEMBLY. COMMENT: SUGGEST DEPARTMENT KEEP QUESTION OF CHAIRMAN IN MIND DURING EUROPEAN CONSULTATIONS AND OBTAIN SOVIET VIEWS AT APPROPRIATE TIME. TOPPING

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